
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

TEXT: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 KJV*

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (16) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (18) Wherefore comfort one another with these words. **(5:1)** But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (2) For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (4) But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (5) Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (7) For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (11) Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

INTRO: *The Day of the Lord Cometh*

The ***Rapture*** is a: ***I Thessalonians 4:13-18***

1) ***Cheerful Hope*** (13) ***sorrow not***
2) ***Certain Hope*** (14) ***them which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him.***
3) ***Common Hope*** (15-17) ***the Lord shall descend – the dead rise first – then we caught up!***
4) ***Comforting Hope*** (18) ***comfort one another***

Chapter 5 is a continuation of chapter 4, it therefore ties the Rapture to the Day of the Lord. Unfortunately, the chapter division between I Thessalonians 4 & 5 has led many not to see the vital connection between these two chapters

I. WHO IS AWARE? WHO WILL ESCAPE?

(***I Thes. 5:1-11***) will come during a time when:
1) The ***world*** will not expect it (1-3a)
2) The ***world*** will not escape it (3b)
3) ***True believers*** will expect it (4-7)
4) ***True believers*** will escape it (8-11)

Note the contrast:
Unbelievers - "They...them...they"
Believers - "Ye...you (1) – ye (5) – us (6) – us (8) – us (9) – we (10)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 KJV

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ***ye*** have no need that I write unto ***you***. (2) For ***yourselves*** know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) For when ***they*** shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon ***them***, as travail upon a woman with child; and ***they*** shall not escape. (4) But ***ye***, ***brethren***, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake ***you*** as a thief.

Every reference to ***the Day of the Lord*** describes unparalleled ***terror*** and ***judgment***, not congruous with a major portion of the early stages of the 7-year Tribulation.

Isaiah 2:10-12 KJV

Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. (11) The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. (12) For ***the day of the LORD*** of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low:

Isaiah 13:6-13 KJV

Howl ye; for ***the day of the LORD*** is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. (7) Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: (8) And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames. (9) Behold, ***the day of the LORD*** cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. (10) For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. (11) And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. (12) I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. (13) Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in ***the day of his fierce anger***.

The Day of the Lord will be:

1) A day when only the Lord will be exalted (not the Antichrist) (Is. 2:17)
2) A day of desperation (Is. 2:19)
3) A day when God shakes the earth (Is. 2:21)
4) A day of fainting hands and melting hearts (Is. 13:7)
5) A day of shocking pain (Is. 13:8)
6) A day of signs in the sky (Is. 13:10)

7) A day of no deliverance (Ezek. 7:19)
8) A day of destruction (Joel 1:15)
9) A day of torment (Joel 2:1-6)
10) A day of no escape (Amos 5:18-19)
11) A day of darkness (Amos 5:20)
12) A day of judgment on the heathen (Gentiles) (Obad. 15)
13) A day of wrath (Zeph. 1:15)
14) A day of no hope (Zeph. 1:17)
15) A day of cosmic disturbances (Zech. 14:6-7)

Remember the contrast:

Unbelievers - "They– them– they"

Believers - "Ye...you– ye – us – we

1 Thessalonians 5:4-9 KJV

But ***ye***, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake ***you*** as a thief. (5) ***Ye*** are all the children of light, and the children of the day: ***we*** are not of the night, nor of darkness. (6) Therefore let ***us*** not sleep, as do ***others***; but let ***us*** watch and be sober. (7) For ***they*** that sleep sleep in the night; and ***they*** that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) But let ***us***, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For God hath not appointed ***us*** to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

****Believers will not face the wrath of God***

1 Thessalonians 1:10 KJV

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which ***delivered us from the wrath to come***.

1 Thessalonians 5:8-9 KJV

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) For ***God hath not appointed us to wrath***, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

II. THE KEY SIGN OF THE DAY OF THE LORD

Joel 2:31

"***The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.***"

Other Scriptures which speak of the same cosmic disturbances include:
Isaiah 13:9-11; Isaiah 24:23; Isaiah 50:3;
Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10; Joel 3:15; Amos 5:18, 20;
Acts 2:20; Revelation 6:12

III. THREE IMPORTANT FACTS:

1. Our TEXT today teaches that the Rapture of the Church and the Day of the Lord are tied together.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 KJV

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2) That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

2. Joel 2:31 (cp. Acts 2:20) teaches that the alterations of the sun and moon will occur ***before*** the Day of the Lord begins.

Joel 2:30-31 KJV

And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. (31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, ***before*** the great and the ***terrible day of the LORD*** come.

3. Therefore, the darkening of the sun and moon, the Rapture of the Church, and the beginning of the Day of the Lord all happen at the same time. *(This is precisely what Matthew teaches in verses 29 - 31.)*

Matthew 24:29-31 KJV

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (30) ***And then shall*** appear the ***sian*** of the Son of man in heaven: ***and then shall*** all the tribes of the earth mourn, and ***they shall see*** the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And ***he shall send his angels*** with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Revelation 19:6-8 KJV

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. (7) Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and ***his wife hath made herself ready***. (8) And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.